

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

VOLUME IV, NO. 26

DALLAS TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1938

Office: 201 East Tenth St., Phone 6-6885

Sam Morris On Radio Chain Sunday

Broadcast Celebrates Eighteenth Anniversary of Prohibition

Our Brother Sam Morris, "The Voice of Temperance" whose temperance broadcast is heard daily on XEPN at 8:30 P. M. and at 5:00 A. M., Central Standard Time, will have a special chain broadcast next Sunday, January 16th. At 8:30 A. M. Sunday he will broadcast on the following stations.

WJJD (1130 kc.), Chicago.

WSM (650 kc.), Nashville, Tenn.

WHAS (820 kc.), Louisville, Kentucky. All these on Central Standard Time at 8:30 next Sunday morning.

Sunday evening he will broadcast on XEPN (730 kc.), Piedras Negras, Mexico (across the river from Eagle Pass) at 8:30, his regular time.

At 10:30 he will broadcast again on WSM (650 kc.), Nashville, Tennessee, and then at 5:30 Monday morning he will broadcast again from XEPN.

These special broadcasts will blanket the nation. These stations are among the most powerful in the United States. Readers are urged to listen to this man of God who is doing great good, to pray for him and help support his program as God leads. This special broadcast celebrates the eighteenth birthday of national prohibition.

A Christmas Without Liquor

If any one doubts the good which is being done by Brother Sam Morris' temperance broadcast, read the following letter:

December 26, 1937

Dear Brother Morris:

I have just heard your 8:30 talk. I also heard Miss Ethel Hubler on XELO tonight. You invited people to write you who didn't have liquor in their home this Christmas that did have it last year.

I thank God that through your talks I am one that can write you that. I have drunk liquor for years. I tried to quit drinking in every way. My wife even ordered herbs and medicines and I took them, and they would help me some, but my will power was not strong enough to resist.

Then my wife got me to listening to your talks. At first I would just turn the radio on and off, and I didn't like to hear you, but I finally began to see the nothingness of the dope. Now I listen to every talk you make, if it is possible. I thank God for your patience and staying ability. If you had given up your broadcast last winter, I would still be a drinking man.

But my wife and children and I took the booze money and bought toys and other things to make our children happy this Christmas, and I was at home with my family reading the Bible instead of being off drunk.

I think you are doing the greatest work that has ever been done on the air and may

God help you to keep the good work going forever.

You may use this letter as you see fit. I hope everyone hearing your voice may be enlightened as I was.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) E. D. EARTRIDGE
Chandler, Arizona.

We rejoice to read in "The National Voice" of which Brother Sam Morris is associate editor, that "more than 500 men and women have written during the last year that they have given up drink as a result of hearing and reading the truth about beverage alcohol. These are indeed the 'fruits' of the combined crusade of the Voice of Temperance and the National Voice."

Let no one think that temperance work is opposed to the ministry that one need give up his ministry to fight the wicked liquor traffic. The Bible has many, many Scriptures about drunkenness and drink which all preachers ought to preach. We will have more sinners converted if we preach more against sin so that God's Spirit may convict men and lead them to repentance. We know that in the recent Bible School in Dallas Brother Sam Morris seemed tenderer than ever in his preaching and Bible teaching. Great crowds

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A Letter From West Africa

From Nigeria, in west Africa, we received on January 4th, a letter written exactly one month before, part of which we are passing on to our readers here. Notice that Brother Basseys needs some good books and an "explanatory" Bible, that is, a reference Bible. We should like to send him an inexpensive Scofield Reference Bible and some other inexpensive religious books. If any feel impressed to help in such a work, we will mail the books for you if you like.

Pastor W. M. Basseys,
B. T. & E.

Faith Tabernacle Congregation
Umuahia, Nigeria, W. Africa
December 4, 1937

Evangelist J. R. Rice
Dallas, Texas

My dear Brother and the fellow gospel workers. "May that sweet peace which passeth human understanding ever be yours."

Your good three booklets entitled, "Sunday or Sabbath," "What Must I Do To Be Saved?" and "Can A Saved Person Ever Be Lost?", and your religious weekly papers, heading "The Sword of the Lord," was sent to us from a far away country like your country. These came as cold waters to a thirsty soul. We were glad to see that the words have been blessed to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

MISSIONARY SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

Four Yearly Subscriptions For Others For \$1.00

At present we are having 8,500 copies of *The Sword of the Lord* printed each week for our readers. We have the cleanest, highest class subscription list we have ever had, I believe. However, some subscriptions have expired, and a good many will necessarily be dropped from the list soon unless their subscriptions are renewed.

Please look at the address on your paper and renew at once if the date shows that your subscription has expired, or is about to expire. The regular subscription price is 50c a year, or three years for \$1.00. We are not reducing the rate to old subscribers. The subscription price is less than the actual cost of printing and mailing the paper. It is worth far more than the regular price. Hundreds of letters from readers tell us that the paper has been a great blessing. We feel sure that you will agree that old subscribers who know the value of the paper should pay the regular price and not add an extra burden in getting out *The Sword of the Lord*.

We are asking you to join us, however, in a great missionary subscription campaign to send this gospel paper to others who do not now receive it. For yourself you

will want to pay the regular rate. If you subscribe for others, we will pay half the subscription price and you pay half.

Four Yearly Subscriptions For Others For \$1.00

If you are already paying for some subscriptions for others, they may be included in this rate as well as new subscriptions. Or new subscribers can include their own subscription at this rate. No reduction in price is made unless there are four or more subscriptions. Any number of subscriptions, including four or more, may be sent at 25c a year, except that the subscriptions should be for others. The subscriber who sends in subscriptions should pay for his own at the regular rate. We ask that you will coöperate with us in this missionary campaign purely and simply as a way of getting out the gospel.

We praise the Lord for the privilege of getting out this paper, *The Sword of the Lord*. Think of the sermons by Dr. Harry Rimmer, Dr. W. B. Riley, Dr. H. A. Ironside, Dr. Robert L. Moyer, Dr. Walter Lewis Wilson, Rev. Sam Morris, Rev. T. Myron Webb, and John R. Rice, besides messages from Moody, Torrey, and other great men of God who have entered into rest. Souls have been saved, and we believe that measureless good has been done in teaching the Word of God and edifying the saints.

The sorrowing have been comforted, the weak have been strengthened, workers have been inspired. And through it all, God has provided. Neither the editor, the business manager, stenographers, nor any worker here at the office receives a penny of salary or any kind of income from *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. All the money that comes in for subscriptions and advertising never pays more than the printing and postage, and rarely pays that. All the workers are supported by free will offerings that come in separately. We not only give our time, but God has helped the editor make up the deficit continually, and we have put between \$2,500 and \$3,000 of cash in this missionary work. We rejoice in it. We simply ask you to help us make the paper a wider blessing. We regard it as a true mission work. Our labor and time and money is given with unselfish devotion. If you will pay for friends, ministers, Sunday School teachers, relatives, or unsaved ones at one-half the regular price, then we will trust God to send in the rest of it. Send 25c a year for four or more subscriptions in any number, not including your own. We feel that you who help in this missionary work would not want us to bear the extra burden for you, but rather that you will help us to care for others who need the gospel in this paper.

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CHASTENING

"Whom The Lord Loveth He Chasteneth" (Heb. 12:6)

BY JAMES H. McCONKEY

whole passage and mark the blessing in it.

"My son, despise not thou the child-training of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him; for whom the Lord loveth He chid-traineth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure child-training, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chid-traineth not? But if ye be without child-training, whereof all are partakers, then ye are bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence; shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live? For ye verily for a few days chid-trained us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. Now no child-training for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Chastening Is For Purification

Does God have a grudge against us? Is God trying as it were, to "get even" with us? Is God's "child-training" a kind of parental revenge for childish wrong-doing? Oft-times we think so. But it is far from the truth. "For they (our earthly parents) verily for a few days chid-trained us after their own pleasure, but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness." (vs. 10). God's one supreme purpose in child-training

us, is purification. He is seeking to purge from us all that mars the likeness of Jesus Christ within us. It is His own holiness that He is seeking to perfect within us.

A visitor was watching a silversmith heating the silver in his crucible. Hotter and hotter grew the fires. All the while the smith was closely scanning the crucible. Presently the visitor said: "Why do you watch the silver so closely? What are you looking for?" "I am looking for my face," was the answer. "When I see my own image in the silver, then I stop. The work is done." Why did the silversmith light the fires under the silver? To purify and perfect it. Is God's child-training an executioner visiting upon us the wrath of God! Nay, it is rather a cleansing angel pouring forth upon us the love of God. The furnace, the suffering, the agony of child-training, what do they mean? God is looking for a face! It is the face of His Son. "For He hath foreordained us to be conformed to the image of His Son." And He is purging from us in child-training all that dims that image. Therefore, child of God, do not be associating chastening only with the word "chastise." Couple it also with that beautiful word "chastity," the jewel of perfect, spotless purity of heart and life. Thus "chasten" is to "chasten." It is to make chaste, to make pure, spiritually. To purge, to cleanse, to purify—that is God's great purpose in all His "child-training."

Like all true parents, therefore, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Loyal readers, send subscriptions to others — 25c each in clubs of four.

Hear John R. Rice
Radio WRR

(1280 kc.)

7:30 A. M. Each Sunday Morning

CHASTENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

God has a model, a pattern to which He is fashioning the lives of His children. That pattern is Jesus Christ. And God's great purpose is that Christ should be "formed in us." Thus the will of the Father is perfect. But the will of the child must be plastic. For how can the will of the Father be carried out unless the will of the child be yielded? Otherwise may not the child baffle at every step the highest purpose of the Father for the life of the child? You can do anything with an obedient child. You can do nothing with a disobedient one. Wherefore the first great lesson God is seeking to teach in chastening is—

Obedience

"Though He were a Son yet learned He obedience through the things which He suffered" is the wondrous word spoken of the Lord Himself. And have you not noted how true this is in the lives of all God's children? The chamber of suffering—is it not the birthplace of obedience? Is not the crowning grace of utter submission to His will wrought out in the place of affliction as nowhere else? Go sometimes into such a chamber of suffering. There lies one of God's "shut-ins." For years she has been in the fiery furnace of affliction. By and by you express the hope that this affliction may pass away. A smile flits over the wan face. Quickly from the trembling lips drops this sentence: "If it be God's will."—Not her own will, but God's! That is the first thought. The words, the spirit, the life of the sufferer all image forth one great truth—absolute submission to the will of God. Somehow—we know not how—but, somehow, this spirit of obedience, of perfect submission to the will of God is wrought out in the furnace and the crucible as in no other experience of life. How many of us strong-willed men and women have found that to be true!

We recall a striking story from the lips of a friend. A lady was summering in Switzerland. One day she started out for a stroll. Presently, as she climbed the mountain-side, she came to a shepherd's fold. She walked to the door and looked in. There sat the shepherd. Around him lay his flock. Near at hand, on a pile of straw, lay a single sheep. It seemed to be in suffering. Scanning it closely, the lady saw that its leg was broken. At once her sympathy went out to the suffering sheep. She looked up inquiringly to the shepherd. "How did it happen?" she said. To her amazement, the shepherd answered: "Madam, I broke that sheep's leg." A look of pain swept over the visitor's face. Seeing it, the shepherd went on: "Madam, of all the sheep in my flock, this one was the most wayward. It never would obey my voice. It never would follow in the

pathway in which I was leading the flock. It wandered to the verge of many a perilous cliff and dizzy abyss. And not only was it disobedient itself, but it was ever leading the other sheep of my flock astray. I had before had experience with sheep of this kind. So I broke its leg. The first day I went to it with food, it tried to bite me. I left it lie alone for a couple of days. Then, I went back to it. And now, it not only took the food, but licked my hand, and showed every sign of submission and even affection. And now let me tell you something. When this sheep is well, as it soon will be, it will be the model sheep of my flock. No sheep will hear my voice so quickly. None will follow so closely at my side. Instead of leading its mates astray, it will now be an example and a guide for the wayward ones, leading them, with itself, in the path of obedience to my call. In short, a complete transformation will have come into the life of this wayward sheep. It has learned obedience through its suffering."

Friend, from the suffering of baffled plans which have brought you the keenest disappointment of life; from the suffering of personal bereavements which have torn from your presence loved ones unspeakably precious to your soul; from the suffering of temporal losses and broken fortunes; from the suffering which has stalked into your life through the willfulness and sin of others; from the suffering which seemed at times to bring you to the brink of a broken faith and a broken heart; yea, suffering one, out of your very agony of heart and soul, somehow, oh, somehow, the eternal God of love and mercy is seeking to bring into your life the supreme blessing that can enrich and glorify that life—the blessing of a human will yielded to the will of God.

And to be yielded to the will of God—what a place is that for you! It means more than silver and gold; more than gratified desires and ambition; more than all the sweet blandishments of friendship; more than all the praises of men; more than all the prizes of fame; yea, more than the attainment of all your highest earthly aims and strivings is this richest and deepest of all blessings, to be hidden, sunken, swallowed up in the will of God for all time and amid all circumstances. And it is this that God is seeking to teach you through chastening. It is into this hiding place of peace and power from which the world can never dislodge you, that God is striving to bring you by the way of tribulation, disappointment and pain. All that brings you there is worth its costliest price of blood and suffering. Rather than the life out of His will nothing can be too dear bought that brings us into that will. Rather than miss it, we can spare nothing from our lives that will compass it.

And now, as God brings us into this place of obedience, He is able to work out in us the next rich outcome of His child-training, and that is:

Fruitage

"Afterwards it yieldeth . . . fruit" (v. 11).

The summer showers are falling. The poet stands by the window watching them. They are beating and buffeting the earth with their fierce downpour. But the poet sees in his imaginings more than the showers which are falling before his eyes. He sees myriads of lovely flowers which shall soon be break-

ing forth from the watered earth, filling it with matchless beauty and fragrance. And so he sings:

"It isn't raining rain for me, it's raining daffodils;
In every dimpling drop I see wild flowers upon the hills.
A cloud of gray engulfs the day,
and overwhelms the town;
It isn't raining rain for me; it's raining roses down."

Perchance some one of God's chastened children is even now saying: "O God, it is raining hard for me tonight. Testings are raining upon me which seem beyond my power to endure. Disappointments are raining fast, to the utter defeat of all my chosen plans. Bereavements are raining into my life which are making my shrinking heart quiver in its intensity of suffering. The rain of affliction is surely beating down upon my soul these days." Withal, friend, you are mistaken. It isn't raining rain for you. It's raining blessing. For, if you will but believe your Father's Word, under that beating rain are springing up spiritual flowers of such fragrance and beauty, as never before grew in that stormless, unchastened life of yours. You indeed see the rain. But, do you see, also, the flowers? You are pained by the testings. But God sees the sweet flower of faith which is upspringing in your life under those very trials. You shrink from the suffering. But God sees the tender compassion for other sufferers which is finding birth in your soul. You see the disappointments, but God sees the sweet submission to His divine and perfect will which is growing out of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Sam Morris on Radio Chain Sunday

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

came to hear him and there were conversions daily under his ministry. Ministers who have an opportunity to have Brother Sam Morris for revivals and Bible conferences or for single services will hear attractive, powerful preaching and unusually strong, solid, Spirit-filled Bible teaching. When a man knows the Word of God and preaches it boldly in the power of the Spirit, winning souls continually as Brother Sam Morris does, all of us must rejoice that he does the additional work of helping redeem drunks, save our young people and turn the sentiment of a nation back toward sobriety and God with these daily temperance broadcasts.

This article is written without Brother Morris' knowledge and the letter and information quoted is taken from "The National Voice."

Missionary Subscription Campaign

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

A Legitimate Use For Tithes And Missionary Offerings

We suppose that readers would not feel like using their tithes to pay for their own subscriptions. You pay for your daily newspaper and other magazines and read them because you get value received. Surely you would want to pay for your paper the same way. But when subscribing for others in Jesus' name, it seems perfectly legitimate to use the Lord's money as He leads you, for this purpose. We know of no way that the gospel could be gotten out as often to as many people in a way so likely to result in souls saved and hearts blessed as through missionary subscriptions to *The Sword of the Lord*. Thus the gospel message; preaching, Bible studies, devotional articles, happy testimonies, will come to each home every week for an entire year for only 25c.

Will you pray for God to guide you and reveal His will in this matter? Then as He leads, write the names and addresses of those who ought to receive the paper and send 25c for each one in a group of four or more and be our partner in this soul saving, gospel preaching work.

This offer is not good for subscriptions outside the United States, since the postage alone costs us 78c a year on such subscriptions.

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CLEARWATER, MINN.

"I am enclosing one dollar to renew my subscription to *The Sword of the Lord* and please send for one year to the following address, with my prayer and hope that this whole family may be won to Christ." H. L."

MCCOMB, MISSISSIPPI

"The *Sword of the Lord* comes next to my Bible with me. I can hardly wait for it to come each week, but my subscription has expired and I am going to send it to some poor, lost sinner, with a prayer that the Lord will bless and save that person through reading this great little paper." Mrs. W. F. B."

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

"Dear Brother Rice. I'm sending one dollar on your wonderful paper, *The Sword of the Lord*. You can never know what a blessing it has been to me. I, too, was nearly lost in lack of faith. I picked up your paper and read, 'A Thrilling Christmas on the Frontier' and how my faith picked up. I'll never let go again. My dear sister-in-law who sent me this paper has passed on to Glory, and what a blessing she left me in this little paper."

"Trusting you, Mrs. C. M."

HOLDENVILLE, OKLAHOMA

" . . . we enjoy the paper very much. We had it sent to some friends in Stonewall, and I believe one was converted through the paper." Mr. and Mrs. H. D."

SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

" . . . Should like to have some extra copies of *The Sword of the Lord* for December 24 and December 31 to do some good work with. Wish every Christian in the land could read them J. L. R."

"I am taking your *Sword of the Lord* and my life has been greatly enriched by reading the papers. They are worth far more than the price." — V. C., Stillwell, Okla.

"We both get *The Sword of the Lord* and enjoy reading it so much. It has been a blessing in our home, and we feel we want to pass it on to others and keep the good work going. May the Lord bless *The Sword of the Lord* wherever it goes and may all who read it be blessed and many dear souls saved." — Mrs. B., Mrs. L., San Antonio, Texas.

When is the time to trust?

Is it when all is calm,

When waves the victor's palm,

And life is one glad psalm

Of joy and praise?

Nay! but the time to trust

Is when the waves beat high,

When storm clouds fill the sky,

And prayer is one long cry,

O help and save!

CHASTENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

the very same. Your heart winces under the sore bereavement. But God sees the deepening and enriching which that sorrow has brought to you. It isn't raining afflictions for you. It is raining tenderness, love, compassion, patience and a thousand other flowers and fruits of the blessed Spirit which are bringing into your life such a spiritual enrichment as all the fullness of worldly prosperity and ease was never able to beget in your innermost soul.

And are you saying: "But, what a fruitless branch I must be that God must needs so to purge me?" Nay, not so. Have you not noticed what kind of branches it is that God purges? Hear His word:

"Every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it" (John 15:2). It is not the fruitless but the fruitful branch which is purged. And why? "That it may bring forth more fruit. Purging is, therefore, not the proof of worthlessness, but the proof of fruit. For it is only the fruit bearers that are purged. The others are 'taken away.' Wherefore His purging is both the proof that there is fruit, and the pledge that there shall be more. God Does Not Expect Us to Enjoy Chastening, But to Endure it for the Sake of Its Afterward (v. II)

Sometimes we reproach ourselves because we are not *enjoying* affliction. We ought to be like Paul, who, we say, "rejoiced in tribulation." But do we think by this that Paul really *enjoyed* tribulation? Surely not. When they knouted his naked back with the iron points of the leather-thonged scourge, think you he enjoyed it? The stones they hurled at him were no sweet-meat missiles tossed by sportive hands in friendly carnival. They were business-like, merciless, jagged, and went home to their target with blows that crushed him into bloody insensibility. Think you he enjoyed that? The "perils by false brethren too" — do you know what that is? — To have a friend play you false — one whom you had taken to your heart of hearts, one whom you leaned upon, and to whom you poured out your soul, what is that but the stiletto-stab that makes the blood spurt from every vein in your innermost being? Did you enjoy that? Surely not. Well, neither did Paul. Neither does any man with flesh, and blood, and nerves, and heart. But what did this old hero of Jesus Christ's kingdom say about the affliction? Listen, "I rejoice in tribulation, for tribulation worketh," etc. He rejoiced not in tribulation, itself, but amid tribulation for the things that came from it. Likewise, God, our Father, does not expect us to enjoy child-training. He is not displeased if we find it hard to bear, and shrink under it. Nay, He distinctly says, "it is grievous," and he only asks us to endure it, not for itself, but for the glorious "afterward" which is to come forth from it.

There are three warnings we need amid child-training. In verse five, God admonishes us to:

"Despise Not"

Do not "esteem lightly" God's child-training. Do not look down upon it. Above all, do not let your heart grow hard and bitter against God because of it. Very needful is this warning to all of us. How many have lost fellowship with God, and have drifted into the dark places of doubt, rebelliousness, and despair because they have suffered their hearts to be embittered against God for His seemingly strange dealings with them! Ah! friend, shun that above everything else. "Harden not your heart." Do not rise up in mutiny of spirit against God. When you let that serpent coil in your heart, it will sting your innermost soul to the

death of peace, and rest, and joy in your Lord. Guard yourself against that. Again, in the same verse, comes the warning:

"Faint Not"

How great is the temptation at this point! How the soul sinks, the heart grows sick, and the faith staggers under the keen trials and testings which come into our lives in times of special bereavement and suffering. "I cannot bear up any longer; I am fainting under this providence. What shall I do?" (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

A Letter From
West Africa

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

both white and lightly colored as well as to the darker in color. The colored folk are harder to win and it means more to them when they step out on such a path. So again the Word of God is doing its own work.

What a blessing! In Jesus' precious name we are brethren! Yes, in spite of far away and in spite of difference of nationality!

Thank the Lord for such wonderful religious booklets and papers. They are precious and we heartily appreciate them. We feel led to ask your favor for some second hand religious books and a copy of an explanatory Bible that can help me for my Bible teaching and evangelistic work.

I am here as a servant of Christ, who witnesses for Him, and seeking to save the precious souls of people for the kingdom.

* * *

Yours in the bonds of Calvary,
(Signed) W. M. Basseys,
Evangelist and Bible Teacher
Num. 6:24-26 Jude 24 and 25

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CHASTENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

God tells me not to faint. But what can one do when he is fainting?" "What do you do when you are about to faint physically? You cannot do anything. You cease from your own doing. In your faintness, you fall upon the shoulder of some strong loved one. You lean hard. You rest. You lie still and trust, until your fainting soul comes back to its own. It is so when we are tempted to faint under affliction. God's message to us is not "Be strong and of good courage," for He knows our strength and courage have fled away. But it is that sweet word: "Be still, and know that I am God." Hudson Taylor was so feeble in the closing months of his life, that he wrote a dear friend, "I am so weak I cannot work; I cannot read my Bible; I cannot even pray. I can only lie still in God's arms like a little child, and trust." This wondrous man of God with all his spiritual power came to a place of physical suffering and weakness where he could only lie still and trust. And that is all God asks of you, His dear child, when you grow faint in the fierce fires of affliction. Do not try to be strong. Just be still, and know that He is God and will sustain you and bring you through.

There is another warning we need in chastening, and it is this:

Question Not

There are some questions the believer may ask of his God. We may say "what" to God. For that is the question of service. "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" It is fair for us to ask that, for we have a right to know the particular ministry He has for us from day to day, even as had Paul. Again, we

may say "where" to God. For that is the question of guidance. It is but right that we should know the place of our service; where He would have us walk, as we move on in our daily journey with our Lord. Then, too, we may say "when" to Him. For that is the question of time. And it is well to know His time for all things, that we neither run before Him in our zeal, nor lag behind Him in our slothfulness. But there is one question no child of His should ever put to God concerning God's dealings with him in chastening. *No man should ever say "why" to God.* For "why" is the question of doubt. It is the assassin of faith. It leads us to the brink of a dizzy cliff—the precipice of rebellion against God. No Christian can afford to say it. Our Lord never uttered it save once, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" That awful "Why!" It had all His life been a stranger to His lips. And why had it fallen now? Because of sin—not His, for He had none. But yours and mine, and the world's, which plunged Him, our sin-bearer, into the black despair of the only hour of separation from God He had ever known in all His eternal existence. And you and I are coming close to sin, with its darkness, and broken fellowship, and its rebellion against God when we begin to say "why" to Him. You do not like your little one to say "why" to you, do you? Its mistrust wounds your father-soul. Neither would God have you say it to Him, for it brings like grief to His father-heart.

There are some other things for us to remember, too, in chastening. The first is:

Remember the Love of God

Last year there was found in an African mine the most magnificent diamond in the world's history. It was presented to the king of England to blaze in his crown of state. The king sent it to Amsterdam to be cut. It was put in the hands of an expert lapidary. And what do you suppose he did with it? He took this gem of priceless value. He cut a notch in it. Then he struck it a hard blow with his instrument and lo! the superb jewel lay in his hand, cleft in twain. What recklessness! what wastefulness! what criminal carelessness! Not so. For days and weeks that blow had been studied and planned. Drawings and models had been made of the gem. Its quality, its defects, its lines of cleavage had all been studied with minutest care. The man to whom it was committed was one of the most skillful lapidaries in the world. Do you say that blow was a mistake? Nay. It was the climax of the lapidary's skill. When he struck that blow, he did the one thing which would bring that gem to its most perfect shapeliness, radiance, and jewelled splendor. That blow which seemed to ruin the superb precious stone was in fact its perfect redemption. For, from these two halves were wrought the two magnificent gems which the skilled eye of the lapidary saw hidden in the rough, uncut stone as it came from the mines.

So, sometimes, God lets a stinging blow fall upon your life. The blood spurts. The nerves wince. The soul cries out in an agony of wondering protest. The blow seems to you an appalling mistake. But it is not, for you are the most priceless jewel in the world to God. And He is the most skilled lapidary in the universe. Some day you are to blaze in the diadem of the King. As you lie in His hand now He knows just how to deal with you. Not a blow will be permitted to fall upon your shrinking soul but that the love of God permits it, and works out from its depths of blessing and spiritual enrichment unseen, and unthought of by you.

Remember the Fatherhood of God

A visitor at a school for the deaf and dumb was writing questions on the blackboard for the children. By and by he wrote this sentence: "Why has God made me to hear and speak, and made you deaf and dumb?" The awful sentence fell upon the little ones like a fierce blow in the face. They sat palsied before that dreadful "why." And then a little girl arose. Her lip was trembling. Her eyes were swim-

ming with tears. Straight to the board she walked, and, picking up the crayon wrote with firm hand these precious words:

"Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight!" What a reply! It reaches up and lays hold of an eternal truth upon which the maturest believer as well as the youngest child of God may alike unshakably rest—the truth that God is your Father. Do you mean that? Do you really and fully believe that? When you do, then your dove of faith will no longer wander in weary unrest, but will settle down forever in its eternal resting place of peace. "Your Father!" Why, that takes in everything! Because He is your Father, how could He fail, or forget you? Look into your own father heart and mark the strength, the tenderness, the unspeakableness of your love for that winsome little one enshrined in your heart of hearts. Then say to yourself, "God's Father love for me infinitely surpass-

es all this." Your father! Against that all doubts must at last dash themselves to pieces as the sea-spray beats itself to nothingness upon a rock-bound coast. Down upon that your child-trained soul will find a final resting place in un-trembling trustfulness. Rear that up before the devil's subtle, hideous, hissing "why" and he will stagger back, the unmasks, baffled, beaten traitor that in truth he is.

(James H. McConkey, who wrote this message, went to be with the Lord just a few months ago. For many years this great Bible teacher suffered and learned God's secret in suffering. His writings are given away free by the Silver Publishing Society, Bessemer Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. You may have this message in tract form or others. We suggest that you send offerings to help pay the expense of this gospel work which God has greatly used to bless hearts.—Editor).

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